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**State of Vermont**  
**Vermont Department of Education**  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

To: Vermonters  
From: Tom James, State Board of Education Chair  
Bill Talbott, Acting Commissioner

Date: August 1, 2008

Re: The Transformation of Education in Vermont

In October 2007, the State Board of Education and the Department of Education outlined a plan to engage in a public participation process focusing on the future of education in Vermont. At that time we published a document called *How Are the Children?* Since then we have heard from hundreds of Vermonters representing numerous constituencies. Students, parents, business leaders, educators and lawmakers have responded to our proposal to transform the educational system in Vermont.

As a result of those conversations, and the intense participation of many interested stakeholders, we are pleased to share a more detailed document that will advance us to the next level of this conversation. The new document, the *Transformation of Education in Vermont*, further describes what a transformed system will look like, what it means for our students, and what we will do to move transformation forward.

But make no mistake – the transformation we envision cannot be accomplished by the State Board of Education and Department of Education alone. It will take the shared vision of all the constituents described above, each understanding the fundamental concepts of transformation, and acting together to support and implement those concepts in their own way. To that end we will continue to bring Vermonters together in order to have important, focused conversations leading to even more educational success and productivity than our current excellent system has, and to provide each Vermont student the educational opportunities they need to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.